



eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Alton

2017

ANNUAL REPORT



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

from the president



The past two years have marked a turn about in the direction of the YWCA of Alton, a turn for the better. With the arrival of Executive Director Dorothy Hummel, the YWCA of Alton has been energized and strengthened by Dorothy's work on behalf of the organization.

I also believe that the Board of Directors has accomplished a great deal in strengthening its governance role for the organization. Over the past two years, the Board has:

- Revised the bylaws of the organization to bring it into compliance with YWCA USA language as well as to improve the functioning of the board of directors;
- Adopted a Document Retention Policy and Whistleblower Policy to bring the organization into compliance with the Sarbannes/Oxley Act;
- Changed the name of the organization from Young Women's Christian Association of Alton to YWCA of Alton, in an effort to become more inclusive and to reflect the change in name adopted at the national level;
- Formally changed the organization's purpose to be more closely aligned with our mission statement;
- Adopted Phase I of our new Strategic Plan;
- Been in substantial compliance with rules and requirements of the national organization; During the last review in 2016, there were five minor areas where the organization was deficient, two of which were corrected by adopting policies regarding advocacy and diversity recruitment and all of which were successfully addressed prior to the December, 2016 deadline set by YWCA USA;
- Participated in increased board training through the efforts of the Governance Committee, with the goal of becoming a more professional board;
- Participated in self evaluations and a full board evaluation process in 2016 and 2017, under the guidance of the Governance Committee;
- The board president and then Executive Director, Andrea Lamer, attended the 2016 National YWCA Capacity Building Institute, the first time in several years that anyone from the local organization participated in such national programs; and, last but certainly not least,
- Hired Dorothy Hummel as Executive Director as of January 1, 2017.

There is always room for improvement and growth, and we will continue to develop our board training efforts to facilitate continued growth as a board of directors. Also, the area of Resource Development continues to be a challenge and will be an important piece to develop for the future of the organization.

I am looking ahead to our 100th anniversary in 2018 and celebrating that milestone with our members and the Alton/Godfrey community. I know I am handing over a motivated and energized board of directors to my successor, Barbara Morrissey McGrew, and look forward to continuing to work to empower women and eliminate racism with this wonderful group of women.

Sincerely,

Gail Donnelly Bader
YWCA Board President



2017 Board Members

2017 Board of Directors

Gail Donnelly Bader
President

Sonya Porter
Secretary

Barbara Morrissey McGrew
Treasurer

Georgia Bratton
Lisa Brown
Cynthia Ellis
Cameo Foster
Ashlyn Green
Britta Haggard
Tamika Jackson
Kennedi Koetzle
Julie Schranck

Joelle Shearin
Debra Sheary
Sue McPike Utgaard
Ex Officio Members
Hon. Ellar Duff
Virginia Ilch

2017 Committees and Members

Advocacy

Gail Donnelly Bader (Chair)

Executive

Gail Donnelly Bader, Lisa Brown, Barbara Morrissey McGrew, Sonya Porter, Debbie Sheary, Dorothy Hummel

Finance

Gail Donnelly Bader, Barbara Morrissey McGrew (Chair), Cindy Tefteller, Dorothy Hummel

Governance

Gail Donnelly Bader, Ellar Duff, Britta Haggard, Virginia Ilch (Co-chair), Robyne O'Mara (Co-chair), Debbie Sheary, Sue Utgaard

Program Development and Evaluation

Georgia Bratton, Virginia Ilch, Elaine Kane, Laura Munson Dewein, Debbie Sheary (Chair), Mary Pat Vernardos, Amy Williams, Dorothy Hummel

Racial Justice and Dignity

Nan Adams, Neil Adams, Ellar Duff, Dorothy Hummel, Suzanne Lagomarcino, Ruth Meyer, Sonya Porter (Chair), Constance Slack, Megan Williams, Virginia Woulfe-Beile

Resource Development

Gail Donnelly Bader (Chair), Ellar Duff, Cynthia Ellis, Barbara Morrissey, Debbie Sheary, Joelle Shearin

Strategic Plan

Gail Donnelly Bader, Barbara Morrissey McGrew, Sonya Porter, Joelle Shearin (Chair), Dorothy Hummel

Women of Distinction

Gail Donnelly Bader, Ellar Duff, Tawnya Hooper (Co-chair), Barbara Morrissey McGrew, Stephanie Monroe (Co-chair), Julie Schranck

100th Anniversary

Gail Donnelly Bader, Ellar Duff, Cynthia Ellis, Britta Haggard, Jill Moon, Barbara Morrissey McGrew, Sonya Porter, Richard Raymond, Debbie Sheary, Sue McPike Utgaard (Chair), Dorothy Hummel



New Board Members

Cameo Foster
top left

Kenndi Koetzle
top right

Tamika Jackson
bottom left

Ashlyn Green
bottom right



2017 YWCA of Alton Staff

Dorothy Hummel
Executive Director

Janique Holmes
Cindi Blackford
Child Enrichment Director

Staci Lawson
Bookkeeper

Jessica Boyer
Administrative Assistant

Kaitlynn Sasser
Child Enrichment Assistant Director

Connie Bomar
Bookkeeper

Tamarua Smith
Administrative Assistant

2017 committee reports

The YWCA USA is a women's membership movement sustained by the richness of many beliefs and values. The YWCA of Alton is a part of the YWCA USA and is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power in order to attain a common vision: self sufficient families building healthy, strong

Racial Justice Committee

The Racial Justice Committee had an active and impactful year. Activities were focused on increasing community awareness and engagement regarding issues of racial injustice and inequality. Activities included:

- ◆ Mother to Mother panel– a powerful exchange of stories of African American mothers whose families and children have been significantly impacted by community violence and societal injustice.
- ◆ Stand Against Racism- A community partnership activity with area schools and businesses to promote racial justice and inequality.
- ◆ Movie Night– Documentary *13th*– A community viewing and discussion about the documentary *13th*, by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores issues of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States.
- ◆ YWCA Board Activity– Path of Socialization and Walk of Privilege– Engaging the Board in ongoing growth activities around issues of racial injustice and inequality.

Governance Committee

The Committee recruited and interviewed potential board members, initiated the Board Self Evaluation and Full Board Evaluation processes, and are in the process of compiling a Board Member packet to be given to new, incoming board members. One of the greatest accomplishments was the recruitment of two high school students. This fulfilled a long-standing goal of this committee, which was to have representation from young women on the board.

The slate of officers for 2018 prepared, with just one slot (a community member for the Governance Committee) yet to be filled, and plans for an educational program, for board members, are underway.

Strategic Plan Committee

The YWCA's dual mission of empowering women and eliminating racism is the core of everything we do. This distinguishes the YWCA from all other organizations. In an effort to ensure the YWCA of Alton was aligned with its mission, the Executive Director and Board of Directors engaged collaboratively in the development of Phase 1 of an updated strategic plan. This began with a consensus building exercise during the board retreat in February. A board committee led the effort to determine the key goals and objectives and outlined how these would be translated to day-to-day operations. The Board of Directors adopted Phase 1 of the strategic plan. We will regularly review to determine if we did what we said we'd do. If not, why not? We'll adapt as needed or update the plan accordingly.

Program Development and Evaluation Committee

The Program Development and Evaluation Committee worked with the new Executive Director to fine tune the use of the data tool developed in 2016. Dorothy worked with her staff to define and report the retrospective data. Dorothy was able to clarify several data points during the process. This proved beneficial as she worked with staff to improve billing and purchasing practices.

The committee focused most on the Child Enrichment program during 2017. The CE program is always given a focus due to the importance of the income generated from this program. Other programs were discussed at each meeting as they emerge into more viable programs. These include Fitness, Volunteers and Community Service Volunteers, Career Closet, and 21st Century. The collaboration with the Alton School District 21st Century Program, Girls Who Code, at the Alton Middle School was developed during 2017.

The committee shared meeting minutes and data sheets (with notations) with the Board. The Program Development and Evaluation meetings provide an objective way to review and monitor data and cause discussion surrounding program improvements.

2017 activities and programs—youth

CHILD ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: Provided **256 days** of care to **114 children** in the Child Enrichment (CE) school year program. The program delivered **210 days** of activities including STEM, Arts, Cultural Diversity, Gender Equality and more, to the children in our CE program. Served **51** children in our Summer Day Camps which featured **12** field trips, **3** Guest Speaker Events, and YWCA FitKids. YWCA children and staff donated school supplies for **50** children to the Madison County Child Advocacy Center and sent holiday cards to various nursing homes.

GIRLS WHO CODE PROGRAM: YWCA of Alton, serving as Facilitator for the 21st Century program Girls Who Code at the Alton Middle School, taught **9** girls how to write computer code. Weekly meetings consisted of viewing videos about women influential in coding, learning about the different types of coding, and how coding plays into our everyday lives. The students also successfully developed a computer game while establishing new relationships and making new friends. The importance of women in coding and considering careers in computer science was emphasized in the program.

THEATER CAMP: The Edible Arrangements Improv group from Alton High School and YWCA of Alton hosted a theater camp during July for **42** children ages 8 to 12 years old. High school and college students were empowered to organize, market and facilitate the Theater Camp where campers were taught to sing, dance, and act. A delightful performance was presented at the end of the week-long camp in the YWCA gym for family members and friends, showcasing the talents of our budding actors, dancers and musicians.

COMMUNITY TUTORING: YWCA teamed up with Scholars On the Rise, a team of **7** certified teachers and numerous volunteers, to facilitate the summer's Community Tutoring initiative. The program was designed to prevent summer learning loss in reading and math, which disproportionately affects low income youth of color. Community Tutoring provided reading, math instruction and lunch to **32** young scholars.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (YEP): YEP was designed to empower high school students to find their voice in all areas of their life, from creativity to community service. Adult mentors from YWCA, the Salvation Army, Argosy Gaming and Today's Beauty Supply provide guidance, support, and encouragement for the YEP members. Several activities took place during the year including Poetry Slams, an Improv Night, an Outdoor Movie Night, and a Mayoral Voter Forum held at YWCA. All activities were developed, marketed and coordinated by students in the program.

LET'S DANCE: YWCA of Alton provided dance instruction for **11** youth in ballet, tap, hip hop and jazz. This program utilized our beautiful studios and was offered throughout the summer.

FITKIDS: In hopes of teaching our youth about the importance of being physically active and eating healthy foods, YWCA designed the FITKIDS program utilizing **2** SIUE Applied Life Science interns. YWCA FITKIDS provided **52** children with fun, engaging physical fitness activities and lessons on how healthy eating and exercise can improve our lives.

BASKETBALL CAMPS: YWCA teamed up with coaches from the local Southern Illinois Warriors basketball club to offer two week-long basketball camps which touched the lives of **18** area youth. Both camps were held in the YWCA of Alton gymnasium.



2017 activities and programs—wellness



LINE DANCE Line dancing classes were coordinated by Diane Ingram, was held in the fall serving **62** persons. Participants were taught the Cupid Shuffle, Cha-cha, Chuck Baby, Wild Wild West dances and more. Our dancers were of all ages and backgrounds and had a great time being healthy and improving their Line Dance skills.

BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE YOGA Beginner and Intermediate Yoga classes were offered at YWCA during 2017 providing nearly **500** days of yoga instruction. Yoga participants developed strength, flexibility, increased range of motion, sharper concentration, a reduction in stress, and improved cardio-vascular health.



FITNESS CLUB Members visited the YWCA of Alton Fitness Club **926** times during 2017. Fees for the club are affordable and offer members a wide variety of workout equipment including: Ellipticals, Treadmills, Stair Climbers, Stationary Bikes, “LifeFitness” machines and a full range of Free Weights.

The use of our gym, when available, is included with a membership and the gym can be used for lap running, basketball, volleyball or gymnastics. Free Wi-Fi and Cable TV are available in the club. Single, family and senior memberships are available.



LET’S TALK ABOUT HEALTH YWCA of Alton hosted a series of classes that complimented our mission. Presentations included: Heart Disease, Transplant Awareness, Sickle Cell Disease, Asthma, LGTBQ issues, and Mother’s Grief.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS The Junior League of Greater Alton helped YWCA of Alton raise funds for our Women’s Empowerment Center with a fun 80’s Zumba Fundraiser.

Several Red Cross Blood Drives were held at YWCA of Alton, including drives sponsored by A Precious Organization. Donating a pint of blood saves up to 3 lives. Our estimates showed that our Blood Drives could potentially save 225 lives.

Special thanks to our other partners: Dr. Chance, SIUE, for the Asthma Discussion, God’s Rare Jewel for the Transplant Awareness event, and UMSL for the event on Heart Disease.

2017 activities and programs—racial justice



STAND AGAINST RACISM, APRIL

Stand Against Racism events help inspire and unite our community to publicly demonstrate and clearly echo the YWCA message that **We Are On A Mission To Eliminate Racism**. Stand Against Racism events also provide a platform for us to come together and grapple the issues, develop solutions, and take action.

Stands were held throughout the city on Thursday, April 27, 2017 helping to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities.

RACIAL JUSTICE EVENTS On **Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 6:30 pm** there was a screening of the 2016 documentary by director Ava DuVernay “**13th**” at YWCA . In this thought-provoking documentary named for the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution, scholars, activists and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. A discussion, facilitated by Ruth Meyer, Woman of Distinction 2017, was held following the movie of the US prison system and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality.

BALLIN' WITH A COP: This unique community outreach event is sponsored by A Precious Organization, the Alton Police Department, and YWCA of Alton, and took place in May in the YWCA gym. The event, which brings together area youth of all ages and members of the Alton Police Department, for a morning of basketball, relationship building, safety tips and just hanging out is topped off with pizza and treats for all participants. This wonderful and popular event, is organized by **Alderman and Woman of Distinction 2017 Tammy Smith**. Ballin' with a Cop creates a positive relationship between our youth and the police and will have long lasting effects in our community.

MOTHER 2 MOTHER EVENT, JUNE

YWCA of Alton hosted the group, Mother 2 Mother, an initiative of The Ethics Project, who facilitated a conversation between black mothers and white mothers about “the talk” they have with their black sons. These conversations are designed to expose a community of women to the dangers and realities of raising black sons in America. It is our hope that continuing conversations will spur women to use their considerable power and energy to create broad change within their homes, schools, and communities. The **30** plus attendees acknowledged a broadened view and publicly pledged to create change.

2017 activities and programs—week without violence

For more than 20 years, YWCA has set aside one week in October for Week Without Violence, part of a global movement to end violence against women and girls. This year, the Week Without Violence took place from October 16 – 20.

YWCA of Alton and Oasis Women’s Center, hosted an exhibit entitled, **“What Were You Wearing?”** during the Week Without Violence at the YWCA. The exhibit focused on ending one of our culture’s most pervasive rape myths, namely the belief that clothing or what someone was wearing “causes” rape. The display did this by recreating a Student-Survivor Art Installation originating from the RESPECT Program at the University of Arkansas in 2013 and inspired by the poem **What I was wearing by Dr. Mary Simmerling**. The Student-Survivors voluntarily contributed brief descriptions of what they were wearing when they experienced sexual violence. These descriptions were used to recreate the outfits worn during the assaults. The outfits displayed in the exhibit are a visual representation of their stories. This exhibit creates a tangible response to the myth that the victim invites a sexual assault by what she or he is wearing. The art installation/exhibit was open to the public Monday, October 16 through Friday, October 20.

The YWCA also sponsored activities in conjunction with the exhibit, which included a free session on self- defense presented by **Sonny Hatten of Piasa Martial Arts**, on Wednesday, October 18, meditation instruction from **Gail Herzog of Be Well Now** on Thursday, October 19, and a Poetry Slam Against Sexual Assault on Friday, October 20. Over **150** persons visited the exhibit, or attended the events during the week.



women's empowerment

YWCA of Alton hosted the Women of Distinction gala on April 27, 2017 recognizing ten women who have been important to the development of our community through their community service and volunteerism and who serve as role models for everyone.



Dorothy Nagy - Mary Cordes - Theresa Franklin - Ruth Meyer - Georgia Bratton



Linda McCormick - Tammy Smith - Martha Schultz - Jenifer Lewis - Mary Pat Venardos



Mrs. Josephine Marley Beckwith was born in East St. Louis, IL on in 1915. She was a pioneer in the River Bend for African Americans in the workplace. She was the first person of African American descent to work for the Olin-Matheson Corporation and YWCA of Alton. Mrs. Beckwith helped to desegregate Alton's Grand Theater, and became the first woman to give birth to an African American child on the "white's only" ward at St. Joseph's Hospital. She was a member of the Alton School System Desegregation Committee, which established the first kindergarten for black children and issued a bond for a new Central Junior High School. For her selfless service to the River Bend community, Mrs. Beckwith was honored as a Woman of Distinction in 2002. Sadly, she passed away on August 19, 2017 at 102

JOSEPHINE MARLEY BECKWITH FUTURE LEADERS SCHOLARSHIPS

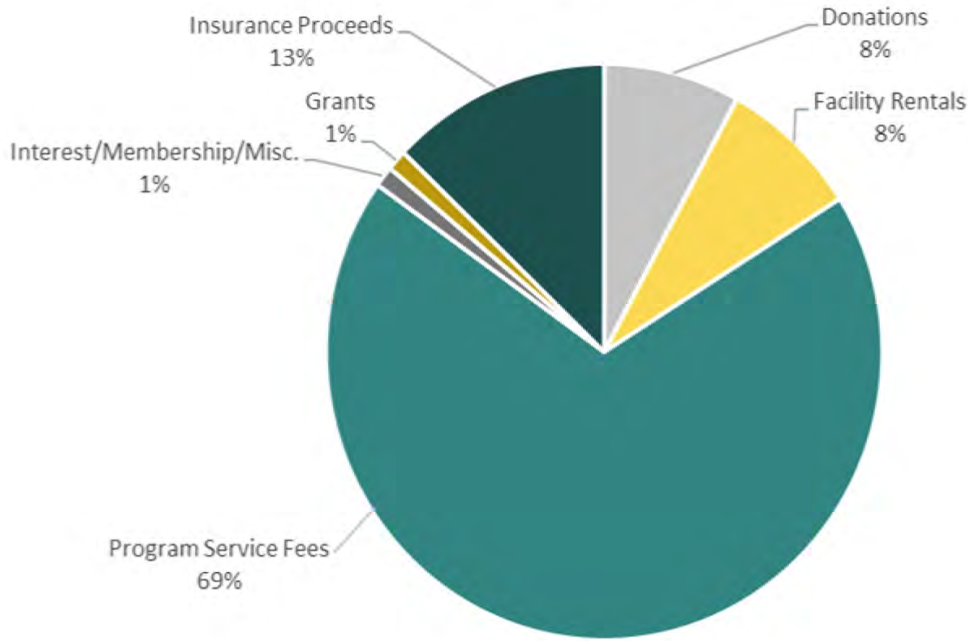
Inspired by Mrs. Beckwith's life, the Women of Distinction Committee initiated a scholarship focused on developing leadership and community service. Since its inception in 1991, more than 65 young women have been chosen as JMBFL Scholars. Funding for the JMBFL Future Leaders Scholarships primarily comes from the Women of Distinction Academy. The 2017 Future Leaders Scholarship winners are **Kiara Hardmon**, attending St. Louis University, **Anna Johnson**, attending MIT, and **Taylor Mateyka**, attending University of Wisconsin. We were also able to renew the following scholarships of **Katelyn Toigo**, **Taylor Tarter**, and **Bailee Warsing**.

Women's Empowerment Center included mentoring services and a Career Closet. Career Closet distributed free clothing, shoes and feminine hygiene supplies to many area women in need. Several women received individual mentoring services relating to job search and placement from YWCA staff.

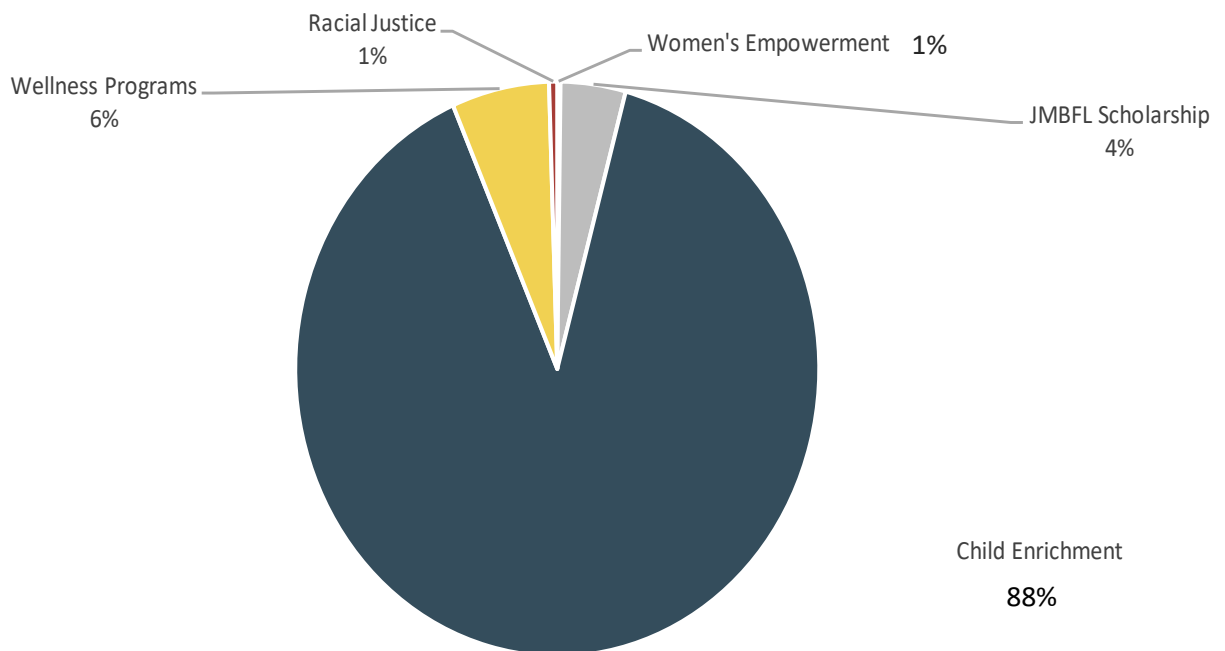
Budgeting and Homebuyer Classes were offered in concert with Alton Housing Authority and Carrollton Bank during the first half of the year.

Student Empowerment YWCA provided **three** SIUE students with internships and opportunities for Senior Projects.

YWCA OF ALTON INCOME 2017



YWCA OF ALTON EXPENSES 2017



how you can help

YWCA of Alton has provided a social support system for our community and has been a great resource for the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism. We continue to serve the region and are revitalizing the services and programs to better serve our community.

BECAUSE OF YOU WE CAN

\$35

Can provide one child's registration fees for Child Enrichment program

\$50

Can provide a youth with dance instruction or basketball camp

\$75

Provides meals and drinks for one Community Tutoring Session

\$100

Provides a senior with a year long Fitness Club membership

\$250

Provides speaker fees for a Racial Justice Speaker Event

\$500

Provides 5 weeks of Before/After Care for Child Enrichment program

To make a gift, please visit www.altonywca.com and look for the **DONATE NOW** button 



YWCA IS ON A MISSION

thank you

All gifts, great or small, are appreciated. Listed below are gifts received in 2017. If we have inadvertently left your name out, please accept our apologies and notify Dorothy Hummel, Executive Director, at (618) 465-7774 or dhummel@altonywca.com

Thank You

2017

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Tyler Stutz
Candice Wallace

Volunteerism

YWCA of Alton wishes to acknowledge our special and very dedicated 100 volunteers who work tirelessly to provide us with over 500 service hours.

YWCA of Alton is blessed to be a part of such a caring and generous community.



YWCA of Alton

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Alton, Illinois

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A MISSION**